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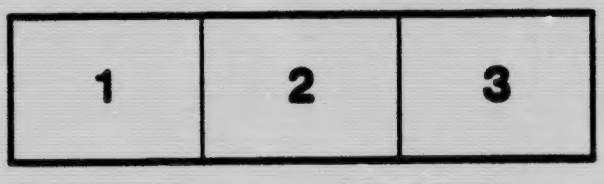

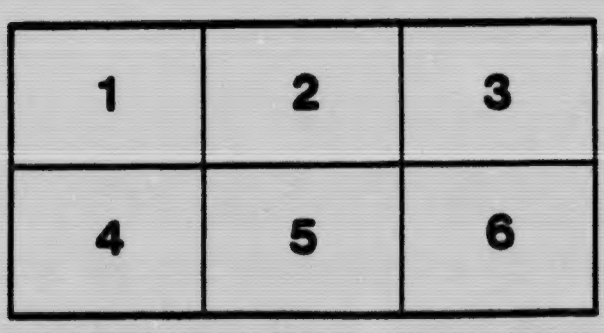

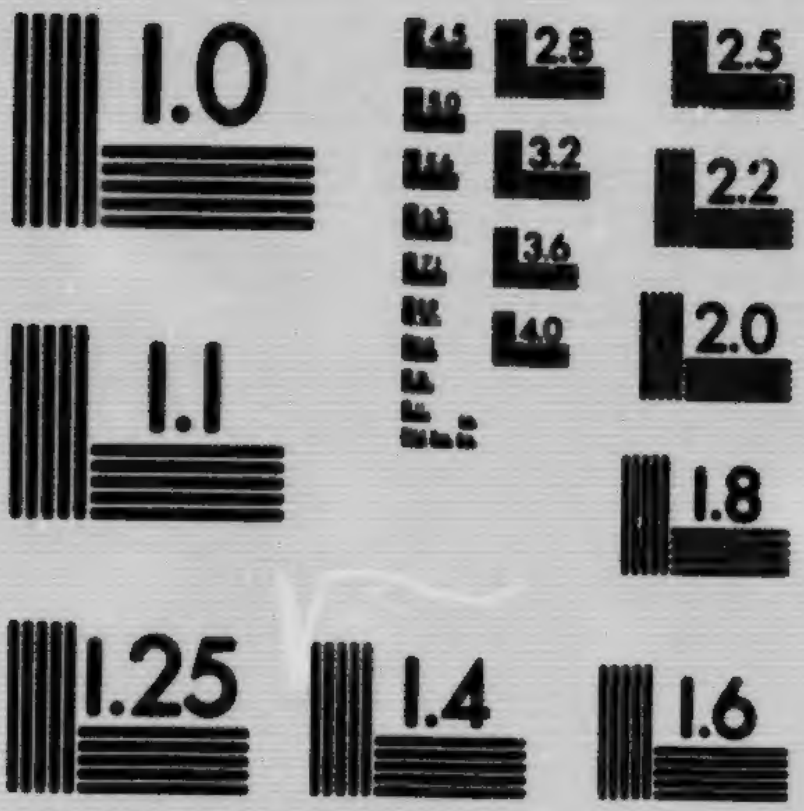

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NOMINATION ADDRESS

—OF THE—

HON. JOHN DRYDEN

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

Reviewing the Work of the Department of Agriculture and Outlining its Future Policy.

Wm. H. Dryden
Compliments.

Delivered at Brooklin

APRIL 19th, 1902.

At a large and representative convention of the Liberals of South Ontario at Brooklin on Saturday last Hon. John Dryden was unanimously and enthusiastically named as the candidate of the party for the coming Provincial election. Every portion of the riding furnished a large quota of delegates, and all of them did their utmost to show their appreciation and admiration [illegible]e course of the Minister of Agri[illegible]re. The spirit of the meeting [illegible] to prove that he had more and [illegible]e dur[illegible]g his long public career deserved their confidence and esteem. He made a telling speech, which was interrupted at times by loud applause and created great enthusiasm. His hearers were deeply interested in his address, and after the meeting they expressed individually their determination to place South Ontario in the front rank of Liberal ridings throughout the Province.

The meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, which was crowded to the doors. Mr. R. R. Mowbray, President of the South Ontario Liberal Association, occupied the chair, and Mr. J. F. Tamblyn acted as Secretary. The following were invited to seats on the platform :—Hon. John Dryden; Messrs. William Ross, M. P., Port Perry; E. Mundy, Oshawa; D. Ormiston, Whitby; Mayor F. L. Fowke, Oshawa; Dr. Mitchell, Enniskillen; B. Bunting, Pickering; L. K. Murton, Oshawa, and James Taylor, Whitevale.

Election of Officers.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, referred to the large attendance as sufficient evidence that the Grits were not dead in South Ontario. (Cheers.) He said he was glad to see so many farmers present, particularly as it was a very busy season in the country districts. He called for nominations for the offices of the Liberal Association, and the present Executive was re-elected as follows :—Hon, President, R. McLaughlin, Oshawa; President, R. R. Mowbray, Pickering; Vice-Presidents, T. E. Cragg, Greenbank; William Davis, East Whitby; Secretary, J. F. Tamblyn, Oshawa; Treasurer, D. Ormiston, Whitby; Executive Committee, Thomas Beare, Whitevale; George Parker, Dunbarton; William Purvis, Columbus; Alex. Ketchen, Brooklin; R. W. Walker, Utica; R. M. Holtby, Manchester; Chas. King, Whitby; F. L. Fowke, Oshawa; John H. Brown, Port Perry; George Jackson, Scugog.

Mr. Dryden the Candidate.

The election of a candidate was an enthusiastic although purely formal proceeding. Mr. Mowbray called for names, and said he had no doubt they would elect a Liberal representative in South Ontario, as well as a Liberal majority throughout the Province. They were proud of the record of the Government, and he believed that that Government would be heartily endorsed on election day. Mr. George W. McLaughlin of Oshawa proposed, amid cheers, the name of Hon. John Dryden, and the nomination was seconded by Mr. T. E. Cragg of Greenbank. A standing vote was asked for, and the whole audience rose to support the nomination of the Minister of Agriculture. It was tendered by the Chairman to Mr. Dryden, and the delegates and others in the body of the hall gave three rousing cheers for the candidate. As he came forward to speak he was greeted with another outburst of applause. He said :—

Mr. President and Gentlemen : In offering this nomination to-day, you have completed a perfect number. I believe that this is the seventh time you have placed me in the position of standard-bearer for the Liberal party at a general election in this riding. It seems to me, therefore, that this ought to be the last. It covers a long period in a man's life and in the history of his country. Through your great kindness and continued confidence, my name as your representative has been interwoven in the history of our fair Province; whether for weal or woe, it cannot now be changed. I cannot think

that I have deserved this great honor at your hands, and especially so when I remember that throughout this long period no other name has ever been mentioned in the party for this position, the offer having always been, as it is to-day, unanimously tendered. Nearly all the old men whose example and enthusiasm in the interest of good government inspired us in those early days have now passed away. We, who were then young and just beginning to assume our share of responsibility, now take their places, and, with us, younger men are associated who, though they have never been thrilled by the old issues, such as the settlement of the clergy reserves, representation by population, the streams bill, or the boundary award, yet we find that loyalty to their country is present in these and is as strong as in their fathers. They are Liberals because to them Liberalism stands for progress and development, for honest administration of public affairs, for the economical use of public funds in the public interest, the education of the masses, equality of citizenship—these are the principles that will always remain, and which bind us together for a common purpose.

Not Ashamed of the Liberal Record.

I am not ashamed of the record that has been made in the Government of this Province by the Liberal party, and I could to-day as heartily support one of yourselves in carrying out these principles as you have supported me in the past; but this convention has ordered it otherwise, and I shall therefore frankly accept your decision, and shall do my best to merit your continued approval.

The Duty of Liberals.

Let me say that this is an important epoch in our history. Political parties have lately been pretty evenly divided. The issues between us at the present time are clear and distinct, and the future of the Province more than we now know depends on the decision the people will give. As Liberals, it is now our duty to see that the people receive clear and correct information on the various public questions under discussion. When they have received it they may be depended upon to give their decision in the best interests of the country. There is no single question at issue between us that any Liberal may fear to have discussed before the electors, and in making out their case against our party our opponents seem to depend either on withholding some of the truth or in wilfully misrepresenting the facts.

A Campaign of Vilification.

It is easy to see that this campaign is to be one of mud-slinging. Cries of "The Machine," "The Barons," "Public Criminals," "The Ranch," "Ballot Stuffer," etc.—these will ring in your ears until the election is over. No elector in this riding will, I am certain, be at all moved by such cries, because we have sworn testimony in our own county concerning other machines and real ballot-stuffing which are not connected with the Liberal party.

No Sympathy With Wrong.

As you know, I have no soft or tender words for ballot-stuffers or ballot-spoilers, or for corruptionists of any kind, and if a seat can be procured only by such means, then I refuse to take it. I confess to a degree of shame on account of the revelations made in recent years in connection with both the great political parties; but what makes me still more ashamed is that after these revelations, and after our law has been amended making it as rigid as possible with the view of protection in this regard, and after the guilty parties have been severely punished (a large number of them in our own county), still many public men are unable to rise higher in statesmanship than the discussion of such questions.

A Higher Plane Necessary.

The opening of New Ontario; the needs of agriculture; the necessity for a better road system, and for wise legislation in reference to any particular subject—these things have no attraction whatever for them. They refer to Elgin and Waterloo again and again as a sweet morsel not to be dropped. They call us bad names, as though they themselves were the veriest models of purity. No wonder that ex-leader of the Conservative party was forced in the Legislature to cry out against it in terms that cannot be misunderstood, saying: "I am sick and tired of this calling every man a thief and a robber who is found in public life." There is one comfort, however, which is that, after twenty-five years of continuous discussion, we have finally, I believe, got past the everlasting repetition of the arguments about the surplus.

In a recent speech I notice that Mr. Whitney made a proposition to appoint vigilance committees. I am quite willing to second his motion, provided he will agree that half of those placed on such committees shall consist of Liberals. No one knows better than Mr. Whitney that there is quite as much need for watching those who are working in his interest as there ever was for watching the Liberal party.

Indefinite Charges.

Another complaint that I have to make against our opponents is that, in making their charges usually no details whatever are given. For instance, I notice that Mr. Foy, who has lately been nominated for South Toronto, in one of his late utterances, declared that the Government is wasteful in regard to the Provincial assets, and that they are not economical with the revenues of the Province. That is all he appears to have said about it. What you and I would like to know is, where and in what particular is the waste? Concerning what particular items is he able to show that we have not been economical? Unless these questions are answered, the elector seeking information is left in absolute ignorance.

Province's Resources Carefully Husbanded.

Our pine timber and our pulpwood are assets. Have we wasted the pine timber of the country? Have we parcelled it out, as in the past, before the boundary award, it was parcelled out by Mr. Foy's political friends at five dollars per square mile? Not a mile of it has been so disposed of, but the record has been entirely in the other direction. If you take the thirty years before 1871, you will find that something over thirteen thousand square miles were disposed of on account of the Province at an average of $21 per mile, while during a similar period since 1873 5,150 miles have been disposed of at an average price of $1,324 per mile. The last two sales, one in 1899 and the other in 1901, averaged $2,000 and $1,836 per mile respectively. But this is not all the revenue that is derived from the sale of pine limits, because after the sale has been made there is collected annually three dollars per square mile for ground rent, and from $1.00 to $1.25 per thousand feet on all timber when it is cut. I am certain Mr. Foy cannot discover that anything has been wasted in this connection.

What is a "Pulp Concession?"

Then, as to pulp timber, the Crown Lands Department estimates that we have in sight two hundred and eighty-eight millions of acres of this timber. None of it can be cut without the crown receiving forty cents for every cord as Government dues. This means, if it could all be cut, a cash asset of $115,000,000. By our present policy we are not wasting this timber, nor are we giving it away. It has been going to waste for the last hundreds of years by fire and otherwise. Now we propose to utilize it; we propose to sell it under certain restrictions, and after it is taken off the land will reproduce another forest in twenty to twenty-five years. The first restriction is that we require this timber to be manufactured in this country; the party who has the right to cut it is not allowed to export it, nor is he allowed to sell anywhere unless in the manufactured product. But in order to manufacture it immense capital is required for the necessary plant. This will not be forthcoming except on the understanding that sufficient pulpwood can be furnished to keep the plant in operation. The right to cut pulpwood at forty cents a cord in order to manufacture it, as I have stated, is what is called a "pulp concession." We do not allow it to be cut as a speculation to be resold to others; only what is sufficient may be cut to keep the mill erected for the purpose running. The parties receiving the concessions are required to expend large sums on their plant. For instance, the Keewatin contract calls for an expenditure of $1,500,000 and the employment of 500 hands; the Spanish River contract calls for the expenditure of $500,000 and the employment of 250 persons; the Sturgeon Falls concession calls for the expenditure of one million and the employment of 240 hands; while the Sault Ste. Marie concession to Mr. Clergue called for the expenditure of $400,000, which has since been largely increased.

Settlers Not Shut Out.

It is sometimes alleged that we ought to sell these areas out and out, as we sell the pine limits. There are two main reasons why this is not the most desirable way to deal with pulp timber. First, pine lands are not ordinarily suitable for settlement, while pulp lands in a general way are suitable. If we sold these lands to one person, as we sell the pine limits, we must of neces-

sity shut out settlers. Under our present arrangement any settler can go upon pulp land, and when he is located and has received his title the timber becomes his property. We think it is not desirable to shut the settler out.

Development Stimulated.

Second, no guarantee of immediate development could be given under such circumstances, and, we think, immediate development is very much to be desired. Under such an arrangement, the purchaser would have the right to hold the property for development in the future; but we compel development within a time limit or the concession drops. I ask, is not the expenditure of $500,000 or $1,000,000 in buildings and machinery and the employment of 200 to 500 persons at any given point a sufficient bonus in itself? Is it not better than a much smaller cash bonus in giving us a permanent wealth producing asset and a steady annual income for the Crown? We do not want to sell to millionaires for the purpose of allowing them to hold it until some future time, as pine limits are held to-day; we want the timber cut now, so that it may grow again, or that the land may be devoted to agriculture; we want the dues paid so as to increase our annual income; we want workmen employed and buildings erected, the town and village established, and the population of our Province increased. These are the results of the present system; so that, in giving these concessions, we have not wasted our assets; we are simply utilizing them in the public interest.

The Mail and Empire Answered.

It is said that we are wasting our opportunities, and that, especially in the Department of Agriculture, we are pursuing a fossilized policy; that because of what is called "pottering" in my department, no progress is being made, and that the number of farmers is growing less and less.

The Mail and Empire of March last presented an editorial article as follows:—

"Ontario's rural population has fallen by 48,133 during the past ten years. So the census reports. We have fewer farmers now than we had in 1891, and if the fossil policy of the Ontario Government is continued we shall have fewer still ten years hence. Mr. Dryden has pottered in the Agricultural Bureau without effect. Instead of cutting off 48,133 rural inhabitants, he ought to have added 100,000 to the number. The trouble lies in the inability of the Minister to grasp the situation and to devise means whereby agriculture shall be more profitable and more attractive. It is aggravated by the circumstance that, instead of improving our conditions at home, Mr. Dryden is advertising Dakota as a field for effort. It is gratifying to know that Mr. Whitney will take hold of this question of depopulation and will improve the facilities for agricultural education in order that the farm may draw to it and retain the enterprise and the labor that now leave it. It is idle to pretend that Ontario, the banner Province, cannot do better. Better it can, and will do, when machine politics are destroyed and genuine business effort is applied to our conditions."

I read this to you because I am certain that many of you are accustomed to read The Mail and Empire. This is a fair sample of the food dished up to its readers day by day. I guarantee to you now that the writer himself does not believe a word of the article, and that if you could see him privately in his own home he would probably tell you so, but would say that it had to be done for political reasons. I have no doubt that when I have retired from active politics the same journal will point to me as a model of perfection when head of the department. It will then be some other chap who is actively engaged in aggressive work who will be called bad names. When Sir Oliver was Premier of the Province he was a "little tyrant," who must be driven out of power; to-day he is a model of perfection, and always was, and his acts are quoted accordingly, while those of us who worked with him in the past are everything that is bad.

No Loss in Number of Actual Farmers.

I deny most emphatically every proposition laid down in this article. The last census does show a loss in the rural population, but I assert that we have in Ontario as many persons living and working on the farms as we ever had at any time in the history of the country. The population has gone, not from the farms, but from the smaller towns and unincorporated villages, and has removed to the larger centres of population. Take this Village of Brooklin as an example: Formerly we had three large grist mills running, frequently night and day, doing a large export business, and employing considerable

labor in that connection. To-day there is none engaged in this work. Then we had two large tanneries, each employing a considerable number of hands. To-day we have none, one of them being located in the City of Toronto. At that time we had three woodworking and blacksmith establishments, making waggons, carriages, etc., for the surrounding country. Now we have one blacksmith shop, and the manufacture of waggons and carriages has been removed entirely to larger centres of population. In a similar way the merchants, shoemakers and others have been gathered into these centres; but the people engaged in farming are practically the same. I desire to say further that they are more progressive to-day than ever before in the history of the Province, and have made greater advances during the past seven or eight years than have ever been made in the history of this country.

Efforts of Department of Agriculture to Improve Conditions.

May I ask you to pardon me if in this connection I take a review of the past ten or twelve years. What was the condition of the dairy industry of this Province at that time? The markets were glutted with carload on carload of unsalable butter, only fit, as the dealers said, for axle grease. Who in that day expected to find in a hotel superior butter? All the choicest samples of cheese were exported, and none but that which was inferior and unfit for export seemed to be in general use. With this situation we commenced what The Mail calls "pottering." We organized the travelling dairy, carrying as it did the latest information and most approved methods into every township, and almost into every school section. The meetings were largely attended, the suggestions presented were adopted in almost every section of the country, and the result was an entire revolution in the butter product. From the home dairy an advance was soon made to the factory system, and the export of butter commenced soon after. Three special dairy schools were established—the Eastern Dairy School at Kingston, the Western Dairy School at Strathroy, and the Central Dairy School, in connection with the Agricultural College at Guelph, the object of these being to furnish properly-equipped persons to manage the factory production. In addition, the home dairy department was organized in connection with the college course at Guelph. What has been the result of this so-called "pottering"? The value of our cheese product has nearly doubled in ten years. In 1891 there were 839 cheese factories in Ontario, producing cheese to the value of seven and a half million dollars. In 1900 there were 1,173 cheese factories in operation, with a product valued at over thirteen millions of dollars. The value of our butter product has multiplied three and a half times in eight years. In 1893 there were only 74 creameries in Ontario, producing a little more than half a million dollars worth of butter. In 1900 308 creameries were operating, producing butter valued at $1,820,000.

Farmers' Institute System Stimulated and Improved.

Ten years ago we were in the midst of a serious depression in agricultural products. Our farmers were almost discouraged; old methods did not succeed; they needed help more than ever before. My department again commenced to "potter." We reorganized the Farmers' Institutes; we appointed a Superintendent; we multiplied the meetings held; we vastly increased the membership; we put the institutes under definite regulations; we mailed to the members individually all our leading reports; we increased the interest and enthusiasm, so that, while in 1890 77 meetings were held in different parts of the Province, in 1900 we held 730 meetings, reaching in this way 131,000 farmers. We taught them in this way to build silos; we taught them improved methods of tillage; we put them within reach of better varieties of grain and fruit; we revolutionized the hog product so that to-day we produce some of the finest bacon in the world; we taught the desirability of better poultry products; we encouraged the farmers to beautify their homes and to believe in their own calling. The result of all this is that our farmers are now contented and enthusiastic in prosecuting the various branches of the agricultural industry. Again, I ask, what is the result shown in the returns that have been gathered together? The amount of land under cultivation in Ontario has increased by nearly a million acres in ten years; the value of our cattle shows an increase of seven millions in the last eight years; the value of our hogs sold or slaughtered in 1892 was $8,776,000, while in 1900 it was $15,801,000, having nearly doubled in nine years. In 1892 the value of the

poultry marketed was $778,308; in 1900 it was $1,176,740, an increase of nearly $400,000 in nine years.

Women's Institutes Organized.

In addition to all this, we have established Women's Institutes, and their number is increasing rapidly, so that we have brought into this good work the "better half" of the farmer. Each institute receives a small grant, and in this way we are seeking to aid them by discussing subjects relative to home-making, including sanitation, cooking, easier methods, etc. In all the work of my department none enters more into my sympathies than this. If there is one class that I would most desire to help and encourage, it is the women of our Canadian farms. Working as they do in more or less seclusion, without the home appliances of their sisters in town and city, and without the social advantages that the inhabitants of the towns possess, but struggling in many cases with conditions that make life almost a burden, and yet cheerfully bearing the load, they demand all the sympathy and aid that can be furnished. Besides, it is important we should help them, because in the future, as in the past, it is from such homes in the country that our greatest men must come in the future, as in the past. We pay attention to the crops, to the care of our cattle, sheep and swine; surely we must remember the mothers who are rearing the future men and women of Canada. The first Woman's Institute was organized in 1897 at Stony Creek, and we now have 48 such organizations, practically all having been established within the past two years.

Work Economically Performed.

As a proof that in all this work we are economical, I have only to compare the amount of cost with that of the work done by some of the States of the American Union. In Ohio the amount appropriated for the work is $16,350; 274 meetings are held, and less than 100,000 people have been in attendance. In New York State, $20,000 is appropriated, and 300 meetings held, with an attendance of 75,000; while in Ontario 730 meetings were held last year, with 131,000 in attendance, at a total cost of $10,323.

This system, we believe, excels any other on the continent. It has been copied in other Provinces in the Dominion. It is also being copied, in whole or in part, in the States of Mississippi, Maryland and Michigan.

Interest of Stock-breeders Promoted.

Latterly, the live stock industry has been much stimulated and aided, not merely by the work performed through the Farmers' Institutes, but by organizations whose members are specially interested in this industry. To these organizations annual grants are given, and through them much improvement has already been made. It is in this connection that the Winter Fair at Guelph has been organized. This is confessedly the greatest educational fair known to-day. There are others of much greater extent, with larger prizes and a larger attendance, but none that is greater in its educational effects. It is a combination of the fair and the institute. Not only are the proper ideals shown, but information is given as to why these are selected, and how they may be attained by the breeder and feeder of live stock. These lectures and discussions are published, and are valuable to the reader; but they are invaluable to the onlooker who is present to see and hear for himself.

The Forward Movement at the Agricultural College..

Perhaps the greatest advance of all has been seen in connection with the Agricultural College at Guelph. This institution is the only college devoted specially to the teaching of agriculture in the Dominion; but notwithstanding its importance, for many years it has been the football of politicians, every man on the Opposition side of the Legislature feeling competent to criticize agricultural operations, either at the college or elsewhere. Twelve years ago this institution was struggling without sufficient equipment, with a small staff of teachers, and altogether too small an attendance of students. Our policy has been to furnish it with a proper equipment, and to complete the staff and add other departments, so that young men desiring knowledge in any branch of agriculture might be able to obtain it in our own country and at our own college.

Increased Staff and Equipment.

In spite of the jeers, the taunts and the fault-findings of the Opposition, this work has gone steadily forward, so that, while ten years ago, outside of the barns and stables, we had only two

buildings, now we have nine. At that time there were but six departments; now there are ten. Ten teachers were then sufficient; now it is necessary to employ twenty. All these traditions and improvements have naturally attracted much attention, and have drawn students from nearly every county in the Province, as well as others from foreign countries. The education is both practical and theoretical, and is confessedly superior to that given by any other institution in this country for fitting young men for life on the farm. As proof of this, 75 per cent. of the students are now working on the farms of Ontario.

Results Have Disarmed Criticism.

Of late it has become increasingly popular, being visited annually by thirty or forty thousand farmers with their wives and daughters. By the very excellence of its work it has disarmed successful criticism. As a proof of its growing popularity, I have only to say that while in 1890 the total number of students in all branches was 146, in the session of 1901-02, which is just past, we had a total attendance in all courses, special and otherwise, of 725. There are American colleges with more expensive equipment, that pay much larger salaries to their officials, but as judged by competent witnesses who have examined the colleges of the United States and Ontario, none are giving to the students attending them a better agricultural education.

Creates Enthusiasm for the Farmer's Calling.

The course is such as is best calculated to create enthusiasm for the occupation of farming, and no young man having any desire for farm life can go to the college without increasing it to a very considerable extent. The professors are brought into immediate contact with the students, and are everyone of them capable, and I am glad to say that with one exception all of them were educated in Canada.

The excellence of the work done at this institution is seen in the fact that our graduates are found acting as professors in nearly every similar institution in the United States.

The Work of the College Extended to the Farmers.

The Government believes that the college exists for all the farmers of the Province and should not be confined to instruction given to the students who attend, but that the professors in the different departments should be required to aid in the instruction of the general farming population who cannot reach the institution. Their services have therefore all along been required in connection with the meetings held under the auspices of the Farmers' Institutes. In addition to this, let me suggest that a considerable number of undertakings have been carried on under their supervision and direction during the past year outside of the college grounds. Sugar beet experiments have been undertaken during the past two years under the direction of Professor Shuttleworth, who was until recently the head of the chemical department. They have proved to be very important, and have shown how well adapted almost every part of Ontario is for the growth of these beets. The reports published show that not only are the beets rich in sugar, but that a considerable tonnage can easily be reached. Professor Harcourt is now continuing this work.

Professors Engaged in Investigating Special Subjects.

During the past two years Professor Harcourt has been engaged, with the approval of the Dominion Millers' Association, in determining the best varieties of wheat for bread-making. Professor Lochhead investigated causes of black rust, resulting in a law for destruction of barberry, and performed a similar service in investigating the remedies that may best be applied in the destruction of the Hessian fly and the caterpillar nuisance. Under his direction also proper formulas have been prepared for the fumigation of nursery stock, the object being the destruction of all insect life, including the San Jose scale, should it be present. It is believed that in this way we can prevent the possibility of this fearful pest being planted on nursery stock in this Province. In the future, still more rigid regulations will be enforced towards this end. Professor Lochhead will this summer deal with the pea weevil, and will, I hope, be able to suggest remedies that will tend to lessen the ravages of this destructive insect. Professor Doherty, who is the associate professor in this department, gave a series of lessons in different parts of the Province in the destruction of mustard by spraying.

An important investigation has been carried on by Professor Harrison of the bacteriological department, as to the

cause of the bitter milk which was found to be seriously affecting the quality of the cheese in some of the factories in the western portion of the Province. The farmers and others interested found it impossible to locate the cause. Prof. Harrison was sent to their aid and succeeded in discovering the cause, and was able also to suggest a remedy. This professor has lately devoted considerable time to investigating the disease known as "foul brood" in bees. The bulletin he has issued has been reprinted in Switzerland and Russia, and is considered the most complete treatise that exists on this formidable disease.

During the same period Professor Reynolds has been conducting important experiments in soil physics, the ventilation of farm buildings, and in connection with cold-storage for fruit.

In this college extension work, I must not forget to mention the valuable assistance that has been given to the farmers of the Province through the work of the Ontario Experimental Union, which is directly under the control of Mr. Zavitz, the experimentalist at the college, nor the various experiments in connection with dairying which have been conducted for some time by Prof. Dean, and which have proved of great value, and also experiments in horticulture by Prof. Hutt. All the work I have mentioned has been under way during the past year, and the professors hold themselves in readiness to perform similar work whenever they are required to do so.

Evidences of Appreciation.

It is gratifying to know that this work has attracted attention in many places outside of our own territory, and although The Mail and Empire may not appreciate it, it is appreciated by the farmers, many of whom have been kind enough to express their gratification by direct communication to the department. Here is the latest, received a week ago from a Mr. Stewart, living in the Niagara district:—"A few days ago I received a circular from your department re Pan-American medal. I enclose the necessary amount for a gold-plated medal. I may add that I fully appreciate the trouble you have taken on behalf of the farming community, and though not on the same side of politics, I have always had the fullest confidence in the work done by your department." The following letter was received this week from Mr. Callard of New York State:—"I think that your report on the treatment of the San Jose scale is the best I have ever read. I have an orchard infested, and am very much interested in your work."

If I need urge any further evidence to show that the Government has made a distinct impression on the country by the advanced work in connection with our Agricultural College, I have only to mention the splendid gifts from the estate of the late Mr. Massey and from Sir William Macdonald of Montreal towards the further equipment of this institution. These two bequests will total at least $165,000. They prove beyond a doubt the importance of our work, and end forever all argument as to the wisdom of the policy pursued; all the more so because this is the only State institution in Canada that has ever received individual offerings from men of wealth who have never been connected in any way with its control. Agriculture has been honored by these gifts, and our college work has been endorsed and placed on a better and more permanent footing.

Future Policy Outlined.

This then is a brief account of what The Mail calls "pottering," and of some of the results that have been achieved. What of the future? Will what has been done conclude our advances in this respect? I answer, by no means. Our plans are already in operation for an advance in the present year's work. We are endeavoring to unify and concentrate the work of our various associations, with the view of accomplishing more decided results. First, as to our agricultural societies. In round numbers, we pay an annual grant out of the Provincial Treasury of $75,000 in aid of these organizations. It will give no offence to anyone if I say that a considerable portion of this grant gives no adequate result. Many of these agricultural shows have degenerated into spectacular amusements, some of which are of a most doubtful character. The best of our people seem to have lost interest in them, and many of them are struggling for a bare existence.

Fall Fairs to Be Made Truly Educational.

We propose to make them, if possible, what they were intended to be when organized—educational in their character. Following the decision of the meeting of the Fairs Association, held a short time ago in Toronto, we have appointed, by order in Council, Mr. Creelman Superin-

tendent of these societies. Our policy will be not to coerce those who are in control, but if possible to lead them to unify their work, to have similar objects and to work along similar lines. We hope to lead them to give such information to the people generally through their exhibitions as will tend to a better average production. We believe that all classes of our people ought to be induced to take an interest in this work, and that the show itself should be of such a character as to gather round it the best of our people in cheerful rivalry and pleasant intercourse. We shall seek to combine on the show ground the work of the Farmers' Institute with the presentation of proper ideals: we shall try to interest the school children, the athletes, the teachers, the clergy, as well as those engaged in every branch of our agricultural industry.

I am glad to know that the first sample exhibition conducted on these principles is to be held in this county, and that the directors of the Electoral District Agricultural Society of South Ontario are not only in hearty accord with the movement, but that the individual members appear to be ready to render any assistance in their power, and that the various municipal councils of the district are willing to contribute so far as their means will allow towards rendering assistance in this good work. We shall hope to interest not only the people of this district, but to have visitors from many counties of the Province, who will come with the expectation of viewing the results of this progressive movement, and copying it in other places.

Aid to Dairying.

Second: We propose to make a new departure in dairy instruction. Notwithstanding all the efforts that have been put forth hitherto, there is still much in this direction that has been left undone. In some sections no adequate inspection has hitherto been arranged, and the dairy products are not up to the standard that will do credit to our Province. We propose to render direct assistance. Arrangements have been made for the department to supervise two separate districts, one in the eastern part of the Province and one in the west. We shall endeavor to reach every patron and every maker of butter and cheese in these districts. We think we can help them towards a much superior product. If our work proves successful in these two districts we shall ask to have it enlarged in the future. We shall not try so much to fine and punish offenders under our present dairy laws as to make an effort to interest every man in his own business and help him to see the necessity for personal co-operation if the best results are to be reached. As a result, we hope gradually to see better buildings, the production of better raw material, better manufacture, a better process of curing and better transportation, all of which must inevitably result in better returns.

Better Organization for Fruit-growers.

Third: We propose to arouse greater enthusiasm in connection with the fruit industry of the Province. To this end Mr. Creelman, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, has been appointed Secretary of the Fruit-growers' Association, and already the influence of the change begins to be felt. Local associations are being formed in different parts of the Province which will be in affiliation with the central organization. All these will then be able to pursue a common object. The interests of those engaged in the production of fruit are one and ought to be united. Arrangements have already been made for holding special fruit institutes during the summer months at points where actual practical instruction can be given on the spot in the orchard or garden, as the case may be. In this way we hope to organize the people for self-help in the production of better goods, in securing better shipping facilities and in securing the best markets. We propose also that they shall unite for self-protection against the ravages of numerous insect enemies which have been, and probably will be, imported into the country from all lands. We shall utilize more than ever our various fruit experiment stations for these purposes, and we hope gradually to see our fruit men not separated as they are at present, but working heartily together for a common object and with a common purpose. We shall continue special classes in live stock judging, and, if necessary, move from place to place.

Importance of the Work.

These are some of the plans we have in view for the promotion of agriculture. I submit that it is not a whit too much, and that the money necessary for such a purpose ought to be cheer-

fully granted. The agricultural industry, while not the only important one in this Province, is by far the greatest, and on that account is always cited as the foundation industry. The annual added wealth from this source reaches all our people; it adds to the value of the manufacturing plant; it provides revenue to railways, and it brings prosperity to town and city. The increasing volume is garnered by individuals working separately and independently, and often pursuing different methods. It must, therefore, be manifest that if we can unify their efforts we shall be able to multiply their power to bring blessing and prosperity to all the people. This is work fit for the noblest patriot, and calls for the wisdom and energy of the wisest of our men. I have only to add that I consider myself greatly honored in having been in any way associated with it in the past.

The Dakota Ranch.

But The Mail and Empire asserts that even the little good I have been able to do has been wiped away and lost by my connection with a joint stock company which pastures cattle in South Dakota. I never knew before that it was a crime to make an investment in a foreign country. Sir Charles Tupper in his day was the principal owner of a ranching outfit in the United States, and no wrong was then seen. Other men more prominent in public life than I am have had similar investments without having public attention drawn to them. The present King has investments in the United States; so have other members of the royal family; so had her late Majesty Queen Victoria, but no wrong has been seen in that. It was only when John Dryden becomes connected with such an undertaking that wrong is done and persecution commences. They expect me to be more loyal than the King himself. It is argued by Mr. Foy and others that any other man in the Legislature or in the Government itself could have invested in such an enterprise without wrong, but not the Minister of Agriculture. What utter nonsense this is. If an act is wrong, it is wrong, whether performed by the King or by the meanest of his subjects. That one remark shows the hollowness of the whole argument. But there is nothing wrong, nor is there anything that in any way could be twisted [illegible] how an injury to this Province. We [illegible] need to purchase or lease ranch- [illegible] the whole country being a [illegible] ture to all comers. We are not, therefore, pursuing agriculture, as stated by some, and if any company or any man deems it best in his own interest to ship his own cattle to that country and pasture them until sold, and then brings the returns here for the development of his own farm, I do not see who can be hurt. We have saved the grass here in any case. But it is said that we have given our neighbors an argument which is likely to be injurious to immigration. The argument seems to run in an entirely opposite direction. Emigration from this country to the United States has practically ceased, and since this undertaking was begun it has commenced to flow the other way, not merely from the United States generally, but largely from North Dakota, the adjoining State to where the ranch is situated. The department at Ottawa has given out the figures of this immigration as follows:—

Up to last year from the United States	17,987
From the Dakotas	3,433
Already this year from the United States	12,000
Number expected by end of the year	25,000

If the investment in a ranch has caused emigration to flow in this manner—and not a soul has gone to Dakota to live and farm—has caused such a stampede of settlers towards Canada, then I think some one else ought to invest in another.

I have done nothing wrong, and therefore have nothing to be ashamed of. I have as good a right to own cattle in the United States as the King has to own a building in New York or Boston, and I intend to stand by my rights, as any other citizen may the Empire over. How can the Opposition expect to win with such childish twaddle to present to the electors. It is all abuse, small talk and generalities, which mean nothing, and, so far as we have gone in the campaign, they present neither principles, policy nor men calculated to arouse interest or enthusiasm anywhere. (Loud applause.)

There are other subjects which call for discussion, but I have said enough on this occasion. The duties of a Minister of the Crown are somewhat onerous, and consume nearly all my time, leaving little for my own farm. On this account I could not mingle among you as in former years, and as I ought to do. But I have done the best I could. I have tried to meet every duty as it

came to me. I know I have not pleased The Mail and Empire, nor have I succeeded in pleasing the Conservative party in this riding, but I am content if I have succeeded in pleasing you. (Renewed and continued applause.)

Mr. McLaughlin's Message.

When Mr. Dryden resumed his seat, the Chairman read the following letter from Mr. R. McLaughlin, the well-known carriage manufacturer of Oshawa:—"Although not present at your convention, I am heartily in favor of our old and tried friend, Hon. John Dryden, being still our candidate, and hope he will receive at the hands of your delegation a more enthusiastic reception than ever before. The longer the Liberal Government remains in power the less reason do we find for making a change. The Ross Government cannot be improved on at present. Apart from the Liberal party, I know not where the timber could be got to form a Cabinet capable of taking care of this great and banner Province. I am sure that the convention assembled will stand by their guns, shoulder to shoulder, and hold this county secure for a Government of ability and integrity." (Applause.) A letter was also read from Mr. John Nott of Port Perry, expressing his regret at being unable to attend.

Mr. William Ross, M.P. for South Ontario, was then called upon to speak. He expressed the greatest satisfaction at the action of the convention in again choosing as their candidate Hon. John Dryden, who had represented the constituency so faithfully during a period of 25 years. In a brief discussion of Provincial affairs the speaker referred to the position occupied by Ontario among the Provinces of Canada. He said he was proud to know they had such a Province, and proud to know that it had been governed so well. The Government of Ontario had since Confederation led all others in progressive and constructive legislation, not waiting to follow the lead of Administrations elsewhere. A proof of this was to be found in the fact that so many of the Ontario measures had been copied in other Provinces. The Government had materially helped the farming industry, and with the same well-directed energy as had been expended in the last fifteen years the results during the next five years would be simply astonishing. They had at the head of Provincial affairs one of the most energetic and progressive Premiers Ontario had ever produced, and it was foolish to say it was time for a change. (Applause.) The speaker referred to the development of New Ontario as an instance of a policy of progress which should commend itself to everybody, and dwelt on the wealth in minerals, in pine, pulpwood and agricultural land which that region contained. He declared it would be unwise to place in power Mr. Whitney, who had not shown himself to be a progressive man. In conclusion, Mr. Ross said that he would fight shoulder to shoulder with his hearers for the return of Hon. John Dryden, and he hoped they would work hard to insure a victory on May 29. (Loud applause.)

A Resolution of Confidence.

Mayor Fowke of Oshawa presented a resolution of confidence in the Ross Government and in Mr. Dryden. It paid a tribute to the "forward" policy of the Administration, and expressed hearty approval of the encouragement of mining, manufacturing, transportation and farming interests. The efforts made to fill up the vacant lands of the Province with a contented population were thoroughly appreciated, while the expenditures for the development of New Ontario had been wisely and carefully made. It freely acknowledged the prominent part which Hon. John Dryden had taken in the construction and carrying out of this policy, while recognizing his course of tireless activity towards benefiting the agricultural industry of the Province. In the course of a short but eloquent address, Mr. Fowke upheld the various clauses of the resolution, and said he had learned to admire John Dryden, not only for what he was and had been, but for the enemies he had made. (Applause.) The resolution was seconded by Mr. George Parker of Pickering, and was enthusiastically carried.

On motion of Messrs. T. E. Cragg and T. E. Henry, a resolution was passed endorsing the course of the Dominion Government and of Mr. William Ross, M.P. Mr. F. M. Chapman proposed a resolution of regret at the death of Mr. James I. Davidson, ex-M.P., of Balsam, which was also carried. Addresses were given by Dr. Mitchell and Mr. F. J. Gillespie, and the meeting closed with the usual cheers.

NOMINATION MAY 22nd.

ELECTION MAY 29th.